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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,302	09/30/2003	Paul H. Shelley	BOEI-1-1211	8161
25315	7590	09/06/2005		
BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM, PLLC 701 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 4800 SEATTLE, WA 98104			EXAMINER GABOR, OTILIA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2878	

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/676,302

Applicant(s)

SHELLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Otilia Gabor

Art Unit

2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/15/04, 07/21/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the drawings are informal. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 5, line 17, the term "is the detected" should be changed to --is then detected-- for proper grammar.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 34-36, 39-51, 53 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 34 depends from claim 35 but claim 35 depends from claim 34; claim 39 contains the spelling error "a amount" (it should be "an amount"); claim 53 is grammatically incorrect. The rest of the claims are objected to for being dependent from an objected claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nikoonahad et al. (U. S. Patent 6,919,957).

Nikoonahad discloses a method for non-destructively determining multiple characteristics/properties of a composite substrate, the method comprising the steps of transmitting an infrared beam onto a sample composite; detecting the reflected infrared beam that is reflected from the substrate; determining the reflectance or absorbance of the sample from the detected reflected beam; correlating the value of the reflected infrared energy to the characteristics/properties that is sought to be determined.

Nikoonahad discloses the specific characteristics to be determined as critical

dimensions, presence of defects, as well as presence of thin film coatings, and thus fails to specifically disclose the determination of the amount of heat exposure and amount of heat damage, however since he discloses that other characteristics/ properties besides the enumerated ones can be determined through this method, and since there are no specific steps enumerated in the claims whereby the claimed characteristics are determined besides the statement that the measured values are correlated to the amount of heat and heat exposure, it would have been obvious that the general method disclosed by Nikoonahad can be used to determine the amount of heat and heat exposure, since he allows for correlation of the measured values to any property/characteristics of the substrate, and since it has been held that to be entitled to weight in method claims, the recited structure limitations therein must affect the method in a manipulative sense, and not to amount to the mere claiming of a use of a particular structure (*Ex parte Pfeiffer*, 1962 C.D. 408 (1961)).

Regarding claims 2, 3, 19, 39, 63 Nikoonahad discloses that in determining the property characteristics of the composite substrate, a first as well as a second infrared reflectance or absorbance of the sample at beams of different wavenumbers are utilized, and that the property/characteristics of the composite is determined from the difference in the two values obtained.

Regarding claims 4-9, 24, 41-46, 37, 38, 62 Nikoonahad discloses using an infrared spectrometer, and that any number of optical elements positioned at any desired location can be used in the determination method. He discloses using filters,

mirrors, beam splitters, etc. (see Col.38, lines 16-61, Col.41, lines 24-36, Col.48, lines 48-68).

Regarding claims 10-18, 20, 21, 25-36, 41, 47-51, 54-61, 64, 65 Nikoonahad discloses determining the reflectance or absorbance of the sample by detecting the reflected beam of beams of multiple wavenumbers, where the second or third wavenumber represents increased or decreased reflectance or absorbance of the sample. Nikoonahad discloses an exemplary source that emits light with wavenumbers between 5882 cm^{-1} and 52631 cm^{-1} but allows for lower or higher wavenumbers depending on the sample composition and property that sought to be determined (see Col.43, lines 8-26).

Regarding claims 23, 40 Nikoonahad discloses that the transmitting of the incident beam on the sample can be done at many different angles, and therefore it would have been obvious to transmit it parallel to the fibers of the sample, for an accurate reflection beam measurement. He also discloses that a reference reflectance spectrum can be used for a more accurate sample property determination (see Col.43, lines 46-55, Col.45, lines 30-41, Col.67, lines 29-48).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Opsal et al. (U. S. Patent 6,671,047).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Otilia Gabor whose telephone number is 571-272-2435.


Art Unit: 2878

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Thursday-Friday between 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Otilia Gabor
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2878



OTILIA GABOR
PRIMARY EXAMINER